

## FROM THE COMMONER

MR. BRYAN'S PAPER

ALL ARE "SATISFIED."

In an editorial entitled "Bryanism as a Trust Asset," the New York World undertook to show that the Democrats should repudiate "Bryanism" because Wall street was satisfied with Taft. Summoning the New York Times to its aid, the World said:

"The Times in a single sentence, disposes of Mr. Bryan's delusion that the trusts are opposing his nomination."

"The trusts today do not want Mr. Bryan elected, but they want him nominated because they are entirely satisfied with Mr. Taft and they know Bryan is the weakest candidate the Democrats can name."

A hint to the same effect can be found in Henry Cleeve's speech before the Manchester Economic club Wednesday night.

It may surprise some to learn that the great power concentrated in the president's hands by congress has made the great corporations, including the railway companies and banking institutions, anxious and eager to control the federal government itself, and they are accordingly working to control it as far as they can by the force of capital, but as unobtrusively as possible.

Already they are sub rosa powerful political machines. In this connection it is significant that some large railway and banking interests have identified themselves with the Taft movement.

Less than 60 days ago the New York World practically announced that it would support Mr. Taft. And now comes the World with the admission that the trusts are entirely satisfied with Mr. Taft and that these interests have identified themselves with the Taft movement.

If there are men, who in years gone by, had respect for the New York World's pretensions but now believe that the World's policy is controlled by certain special interests and that for this reason alone the New York newspaper will give its support to Mr. Taft then the World has only itself to blame for its unenviable plight.

Poor old New York World! It has some well-earned credit marks. But now that it has been unmasked even the good it has done in certain particulars does not serve to protect it from the fires of men of all parties who despise hypocrisy even though they pity the hypocrite.

### THE LEADER VS. THE BOSS.

The leader is not a man who thinks for the people, but the man who thinks with the people. The leader is going in the same direction that the people are going—far enough ahead to be in advance but not far enough to be out of sight. The leader is not only in sympathy with the people, but he relies upon persuasion to influence them. He presents his arguments to them, but recognizes the right of the people to reject any proposition submitted by him. The leader's title to leadership rests upon his ability to propose the best thing at the right time and as those who follow the leader follow him voluntarily, he must appeal to their conscience and their judgment. The leader is a mold of opinion, and a mold of opinion does not create public opinion—he merely expresses it in effective language. As Thomas Jefferson simply put into appropriate words the aspirations of the people, so, today, the leader—the mold of public opinion—comes into current language the sentiment, like precious metal, which experience brings forth from humanity's great store house.

The boss, however, is an entirely different character—if the word "character" can be applied to one who is often without character. The boss has no sympathy with the people; he has his own interests to serve, and whatever authority he can secure he turns to his own private advantage. The boss is an embodiment of power, and, measured by every moral standard, he is in the same criminal class with the embezzler of money. The boss has introduced bribery, corruption and intimidation into politics and he will go out when these are eliminated. "Let the people rule" is as much a terror to the boss as the commandment: "Thou shalt not steal," is to the thief. The spread of the primary is only a reaction from boss rule, and, like every other plan for the bringing of government nearer to the people, the primary system increases the relative influence of the real leader and lessens the influence of the boss.

### A WORD AS TO COWARDS.

Ex-Congressman Littlefield of Maine is quoted as saying that "congressmen are the most cowardly set on earth," and that they are "afraid to act in any manner which could prejudice their re-election." He admits (but there is a seeming reluctance in it) that "the people should control the government," though he adds: "But because of this cowardice of legislators I doubt if direct election of senators would improve conditions. The senate would then be in a like position to members of the lower body."

The dispatch concludes: "Mr. Littlefield deprecated the branding of all rich men as malefactors and said he believed the amassing of great wealth is of considerable benefit to the coun-

try if rightly administered." It was not necessary for Mr. Littlefield to say this in order to disclose his point of view. No one brands "all rich men as malefactors," and those who begin their defense of predatory wealth with the assumption that all rich men are attacked are either deceived themselves or are trying to deceive others.

But what about Mr. Littlefield's attack on congressmen? Are they all cowards because they are afraid to act contrary to the wishes of their constituents? And are senators brave because they defy the wishes of their constituents?

Senators who defy their constituents do so not from a high sense of duty, but because they are servile representatives of great corporations that hide in the darkness and control the government through the official whom they raise to power.

Mr. Littlefield was not always thus. When he went to congress he was something of a reformer himself. He introduced an anti-trust bill—it was said to be an administration measure.

It passed the house by an almost unanimous vote, but it died in the senate. The "brave" senators killed it, after the "cowardly" members of the house had passed it. Was it a good bill? If so, what secret influence killed it in the senate? If the senate had been composed of men elected by direct vote it would have passed the Littlefield bill; does the ex-congressman prefer a senate that has the courage to assassinate a measure in the public interest to a senate that would be afraid to oppose what the people want and need? Mr. Littlefield ought to be the last man to reproach the house with cowardice or to commend the senate for courage.

Some change must have come over him—possibly this change may be explained by subsequent acts.

In the meantime, the fight for the election of senators by a direct vote of the people will continue. Those who believe that the people should think for themselves and then elect officials to carry out their wishes see in the popular election of senators a necessary step in the reform program—the gateway to other reforms.

### THE OKLAHOMA WAY.

The following report on an Oklahoma bank failure shows the way they do things in that Democratic commonwealth.

"The International bank of Commerce was reported to the bank commissioner by one of his examiners a few days ago for violating the banking law of the state, particularly in its managing officers borrowing from the depositors' money."

"The bank commissioner at once visited the bank in person and found that the total deposits were about \$37,000, of which the president, L. A. Connors, owed over \$5,000, and the cashier, L. Elzy, owed over \$4,000."

In other words, about 30 per cent. of the deposits had been borrowed by the two managing officers. The bank commissioner demanded that they immediately replace the money. They failed to do so. He closed the bank at 2:15 Thursday evening; telephoned the state banking board; received instructions to immediately proceed to pay all approved deposits. In 42 minutes from the closing of the bank the bank commissioner was ready to pay approved deposits. By Friday evening 60 per cent. of the depositors had appeared, proved their claims and received their money. By the end of the second day 99 per cent. of all deposits had been paid. A few depositors who live in the country don't seem to be in any hurry about drawing their deposits. One farmer is reported as answering over the rural telephone that he is too busy to come after his money, but will want it in a week or so.

"In the meantime both the president and the cashier have been arrested for the violation of the state banking law, and are held under heavy bond."

"There will probably be no loss to the state guaranty fund, and no assessment required on other banks. Liquidation will likely reimburse the state fund within 30 days. The loss will probably not exceed the capital stock."

Noting that a New York judge has enjoined a couple of goats from eating a cherry tree, the New York Tribune remarks that "Mr. Gompers may now count on the support of the goats for his anti-injunction bills." And Mr. Gompers may also continue to count on the opposition of other four-footed and longer-eared animals.

Walter Wellman is confident that the north pole will be discovered some day. When it is the friends of the tariff will use it as a summer resort while they are engaged in the strenuous task of tariff revision.

The depositors who promptly received their deposits from that defunct Oklahoma bank are prepared to offer convincing proofs that the guarantee of bank deposits is a most desirable thing.

"Once more," remarks the Salt Lake Herald, "we rise to inquire as to the whereabouts of one Leslie M. Shaw." Gracious, is the Herald unable to accumulate enough grief without going out and looking for it?

Among other amusing things is the spectacle of a Republican congressman who dare not call his congressional soul his own talking about the incapacity of the Filipinos for self-government.

Congressmen now have private offices, but every two years they have to emerge from the bomb-proofs and take their chances.

## FAIR DEAL NEEDED

FIRST REQUISITE FOR RETURN OF PROSPERITY.

Artificial Methods of No Avail While the Republican Policy of Protecting Trusts and Corporations Continues in Force.

Two elements are at work trying to create prosperity, and both seem to emanate from the same source. Certain Wall street interests have been forcing up the price of securities for some weeks until railroad and industrial stocks are higher than before the panic occurred. Then we have the National Prosperity association going up so far as to set June 1 for the birth of the new prosperity that is to envelop us with a golden mantle. The plan seems to be to boost stocks in Wall street so that the railroads can borrow more money, which from the Harriman-Rockefeller point of view is a sure sign of prosperity.

The manufacturers are to do their part by starting up all the factories on full time and, of course, selling the products at full prices.

Whether this hothouse process of producing prosperity will work can, of course, be only surmised, but as the primary heat furnished by the stock market manipulators does not seem to have warmed up the lamb to the necessary enthusiasm, prices are erratic and undependable. The lamb has been shown too lately and closely to be expected to show much enthusiasm until their fancies have had time to grow enough to cover their nakedness.

There is no doubt that all the tariff-protected trusts can start production on a large scale, but whether the consumers can pay the high prices necessary for this hothouse brand of prosperity is more than doubtful. To overstock the market with manufactured goods that many people in their poverty through lack of employment cannot pay for, will hardly help matters unless the trusts are prepared to reduce prices and thus stimulate demand.

As the Republican congress has refused to reform the tariff, the tariff-protected trusts still have the power to collect their share of the tariff tax; and judging from the action of the steel trust, the beef trust, the sugar trust and many others, in determining not to reduce prices, they evidently do not intend to divide their prosperity with their customers.

The people generally must have money in their pockets before prosperity returns. Confidence is a child of slow growth, and until confidence is restored it is much to be feared that prosperity, nourished by the corporations for their own selfish ends, will hardly be deep enough to reach the homes of the people.

Who has confidence in any prosperity for the people from Wall street manipulators?

Who expects prosperity to be produced by the railroads advancing rates?

Can prosperity come to the people by paying the trusts more than their charge foreigners?

Who can have any confidence that Republican policies will produce prosperity since the panic, and with the business of the country still at low ebb?

A presidential year is not a boom year, and good crops will have to be assured and marketed before the buying power of the people again assures prosperity. The boast of the Republican politicians that the tariff that protects the trusts assures prosperity has been rudely shattered during the past year, and their do-nothing policy during the session of congress has not conduced their evident desire to serve the trusts and corporations more than the people.

Everyone wants prosperity, certainly for himself, and may be depended upon to do what he can to secure it. If the people can secure a fair deal they will be prosperous, but with the Republican policy of protecting the trusts and corporations in plundering them by high prices and still higher rates for transportation, the brand of prosperity that has been and is to be handed out, is of the Dead-end-apple variety that crumbles at the touch of investigation. Please keep cool and give the people a chance to re-operate. Under bad laws, and the stand-pat policy that our Republican governors have forced us to bear, the growth of better times will be slow for the people, though the trusts and corporations should soon flourish as the green bay tree.

### The Trusts and High Prices.

But if capital and labor are pursuing a right course, it is not so evident that those trusts which, under tariff protection, can advance the prices of the necessities of life as they see fit, are acting in good faith with the consumers of this country.

The trusts obtained their power for consolidating competing concerns with the implied understanding that they could thereby give the people more reasonable prices. In the days of competition, after a panic, the cost of living was reduced because competitors made prices lower—there were no "gentlemen's agreements." Now, with trusts wielding an almost tyrannical power, the people find prices soaring instead of being lowered in depressed times.

The farmers cannot be blamed for the exorbitant prices of beef, eggs, vegetables and many articles that go into cold storage. They do not receive the fancy prices which the unfortunate consumers must pay. The trusts see that no one benefits besides themselves.—Boston Globe.

## EXTENSION OF FEDERAL POWER.

Proposed Move Is Directly Opposed to the Constitution.

The extension of congressional and presidential authority in cases of doubtful constitutionality, as suggested by Secretary Root in his address before the conference of governors, raises a question of vast importance to the states and the nation. The Root idea is, as we understand it, that one or more states, having an interest in legislation by congress not authorized by the constitution of the United States, may, through their legislatures, ask congress to enact such legislation, and thereby preclude any judicial inquiry as to the power of congress in the premises. In other words, the idea is that particular states may singly or in combination, enter into treaties with the federal government, whereby they may obtain special advantages from the latter, without the concurrence of other states.

This idea seems also to have the approval of the president, and that of certain governors whose appetite for a morsel of pottage outweighs their respect for the birthrights of their states. Never was a more insidious suggestion made by mortal man.

It is interesting to recall some of the provisions of the constitution which bear upon this subject:

"No state shall enter into any treaty, alliance or confederation."

"No new state shall be formed or erected within the jurisdiction of another state."

"No state shall be formed by the junction of two or more states, or parts of states, without the consent of the legislatures thereof, as well as of congress."

"Three-fourths of the legislatures of the states, or conventions of three-fourths of the states, as congress shall prescribe, may ratify amendments to the constitution."

"When the choice of a president shall be devolved upon the house of representatives, the vote shall be taken by states."

Now, suppose those states which are eager for an appropriation from congress for the establishment of the Appalachian forest reserve at the expense of their neighbors, should each invite congress to pass such a law as it desires on that subject, though more than three-fourths of the states should oppose it; and suppose five or six states should combine or confederate, with a view to securing such legislation, and should agree that in case the election of a president were thrown into the house of representatives, their representatives should vote as a unit for the candidate of that national party which should agree to enact such legislation in spite of all constitutional limitations—would not this amount to a revolution? Is there no ground for suspecting that the insidious suggestion of Mr. Root was made in view of the possibility that the election of a president may, as a result of the next campaign, be thrown into the house of representatives? To bi-partisan states which have a deep special interest in waterways, forest reserves and conservation of certain national resources, at the expense of other states, would be the surest method of destroying the federal constitution and setting up without fear of successful resistance an absolute central government at Washington. Is it not possible that this end is concealed behind the means proposed? Why should anyone suggest unconstitutional and revolutionary means, unless he has unconstitutional and revolutionary ends in view?

In the fifth article of the constitution, a method is prescribed for extending or curtailing the limits of federal authority; and heretofore that method has been pursued. Any deviation from it now would be quite as unjustifiable and far more dangerous than ever before. For it seems that even the governors of some of the southern states, where states' rights have had their citadel from the beginning, are willing to play the role of Esau.

### Republican Extravagance.

In the first ten months of the current fiscal year the revenues declined only \$11,000,000, which is far less than last year's surplus to date, while the expenditures increased by \$60,000,000. The government can pay as it goes and have a big pile ahead at the end of the year, but no resources, and no thrift on the part of the people can stand the drain which the Republican congress is making on both.—St. Louis Republic.

The Sixtieth congress at its first session has appropriated more money than any of its predecessors. It has made appropriations which it knows the revenues will not cover. Outside of this field of activity it has been the pre-eminent "do-nothing" congress.

In passing the billion mark the appropriations under the Cannon rules go \$88,000,000 above the highest previous Republican record. But what's \$88,000,000 among friends of the Cannon rules when other people pay the money?

Republican members of the house who began by opposing the Aldrich-Vreeland makeshift and were converted by Mr. Speaker Cannon's pork bar' will now have plenty of opportunities to explain it all to their constituents.

### Ship Subsidy.

The ship subsidy amendment to the post office appropriation bill was defeated in the house by a vote of 154 nays to 145 yeas; the Democrats voting solidly against it. It will come up again after the election; and unless the Democrats win, it will become a law. It is favored by the Hearstites and the Republicans.

## How It Works.

Once there was a struggling young author who was bleat with many friends, all of whom told him that he was the coming great writer of the country.

So one day a bright thought struck him. He said:

"I will publish my book, and all my friends who admire it so much will buy my book, and I will be rich."

So he printed his book.

And all of his friends waited for him to send them autographed copies of his book.

And so his books were sold as junk.

And ever after he didn't have any friends.—Success.

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## WOMAN'S BACKACHE



The back is the mainspring of woman's organism. It quickly calls attention to trouble by aching. It tells, with other symptoms, such as nervousness, headache, pains in the loins, weight in the lower part of the body, that a woman's feminine organism needs immediate attention.

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Mrs. Augustus Lyon, of East Earl, Pa., writes to Mrs. Pinkham:

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